

NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORDS FOR THREE CICADAS (HEMIPTERA: CICADIDAE) IN SOUTH-WESTERN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Abstract

Distribution extensions and plant associations are provided for *Cicadetta oxleyi* (Distant), *Urabunana festiva* Distant and *Pauropsalta fuscomarginata* Distant in south-western New South Wales.

New records and discussion

Cicadetta oxleyi

C. oxleyi is known from low rainfall (< 800 mm) areas in central and southern Queensland (Moulds 1990). Seven males were collected by the author from the property 'Woodbine' 17 km W of Goolgowi, New South Wales, in the period 8-14.xii.1992. A further male was collected from the main street of Hay, New South Wales, on the 14.xii.1992. These records extend the range of *C. oxleyi* as recognised by Moulds (1990) southwards by approximately 750 km. The only other record of *C. oxleyi* outside of Queensland is that of Ashton (1912) who lists this species as occurring in Victoria. Moulds (1990) considered the occurrence of *C. oxleyi* in Victoria as unlikely; presumably in the absence of other southern records. The occurrence of *C. oxleyi* in south-western New South Wales as reported here, lends support to the claim by Ashton that the species occurs in Victoria.

At the site near Goolgowi *C. oxleyi* occupied open woodland, where males called from the outer branches of wilga (*Geijera parviflora*), and belah (*Casuarina cristata*) trees at heights ranging from 2-5 m. Males typically called continuously for periods in excess of 30 min. and were active from mid-morning through until dusk.

Urabunana festiva

U. festiva was known previously from a few specimens from Victoria (Moulds 1990). Twelve males and two females were collected from the property 'Woodbine' (as above) in the period 6 - 10 December 1992. All specimens were taken in grassland bordering roads and irrigation canals where adults favoured 'wild oats' (*Avena* sp.). Males were active calling from mid-morning through until late afternoon. Males characteristically called for 1 - 2 min. before flying a short distance (< 3 m) to resume calling at a new site.

Pauropsalta fuscomarginata

Moulds (1990) states that *P. fuscomarginata* is known only from specimens recorded as coming from '540 miles west of Sydney'. Three males and one female were collected by the author from a site 30 km NE of Hay, on the 14.xii.1992. A further male was collected from the property 'Wantwood'

approximately 40 km NW of Goolgowi, on the 12.xii.1992. The specimens collected from near Hay occurred in a stand of nitre goosefoot (*Chenopodium nitrariaceum*) shrubland. The male collected from the 'Woodbine' locality occurred in mixed saltbush (*Chenopodiaceae*) shrubland.

Acknowledgments

I thank M.S. Moulds, Australian Museum, for identification of cicada specimens. Representative specimens of each species have been retained by M. S. Moulds. The remaining material is retained in the author's collection.

References

- ASHTON, J.H. 1912. Catalogue of the Victorian Cicadidae in the National Museum, Melbourne. *Memoirs of the National Museum of Victoria* 4: 23-29.
- MOULDS, M.S. 1990. *Australian cicadas*. Pp. x + 217. New South Wales University Press, Kensington.